

## **Facts You Should Know About Violence Against Women Today**

### **PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE UNDER THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT, BUT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE TO FIGHT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

1. Crime Is Down:
  - Between 1993 and 1998, the overall violent crime rate fell 27 percent from 52 to 38 incidents per 1,000 persons.
  - Over the same period the rate of robbery declined 33 percent; aggravated assault 38 percent; simple assault 20percent; and rape or sexual assault 40 percent.
  - Forcible rape of females in 1997 declined 13 percent compared to 1993.
2. Attackers Most Likely Know Their Victims: In 1997, over 7 in 10 rape or sexual assault victims knew their attackers, and 5 in 10 aggravated assault victims knew them.
3. Children Are Targets:
  - In 1998, children age 12 to 15 were raped or sexually assaulted at 4 times the rate of adults 50 or older; those age 16-24, at a rate 5 times that of persons age 50 or older.
  - Child abuse occurs in between one-third to two-thirds of family violence cases that involve families with children.
5. Every Five Minutes, A Woman Is Raped.
6. Every 38 Seconds, Another Reported Crime of Violence Against Women Occurs: In 1996, nearly 840,000 violent victimizations of women by an intimate occurred.
7. Danger Zone For Violence Against Women--Evenings And Weekends: State crime statistics show nearly half of all domestic violence crimes occur between the hours of 7 p.m. and 2 a.m., and nearly 40 percent of all domestic violence crimes occur on Saturday and Sundays.
8. Family Violence Is A Leading Cause Of Injuries To Women: More women are injured by domestic violence each year than by automobile accidents and cancer deaths combined. Over one-third of all women who go to the emergency rooms in this country are there because of family violence.

9. Many Victims Find A Safe Haven, But A Shelter Gap Remains:
  - Conservative estimates are that over 250,000 women and their children used shelters in 1997.
  - But hundreds of thousands more are turned away every year. In one state, nearly 17,000 were turned away from shelters from July 1997 through June 1998. Other states report from 3000 to 4000 turned away for lack of space that year. In another state, three-fourths of its counties have no shelters.
10. Women Are More Likely To Be Victims of Violence Than In The Past: In 1997, women were about two-thirds as likely as men to be victims of violence; 20 years ago, they were half as likely.
11. Weapons and Abuse: Twenty-nine percent of crimes of violence against women by an intimate were committed by an offender carrying a weapon. Nine percent of rapes or sexual assaults were committed in 1997 by an offender using a weapon.
12. Nearly All Murders of Women Are By Men: In 1997, females represented 23 percent of all known homicide victims in the United States; 9 out of 10 female victims were murdered by males. That year, nearly one-third of those murders of women (29 percent) were by their husbands or boyfriends.
13. Women Are Far More Likely to Suffer Violence In Intimate Relationships: For rape, robbery, and assault in 1997, female victims experienced 7 times as many incidents of violence by in an intimate relationship than male victims.
14. No Arrests In Over Half The Reported Rapes: More than 60 percent of rape reports in 1997 did not result in arrests.
15. Prison Terms Are Up, But Barely: Offenders released from prison for rape in 1996 served an average of 66 months, up from 62 months for those released in 1990; offenders released for other sexual assault offenses in 1996 served 45 months, 9 months longer than those released in 1990.
16. Teen Dating Violence: 1 out of 10 high school students say they have experienced physical violence in dating relationships; 62 percent knew of a friend who had been abused.
17. College Campuses Can Be A Dangerous Place For Women: Violence against women occurs in 20 percent of dating couples; in 1997, there were 362 forcible rapes reported on America's colleges and universities.

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